IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 7 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A mesoporous silica structure having a plurality of mesopores, comprising:

a dendritic framework having mesopores,

wherein 90% or more of the mesopores observable in a 500 nm × 500 nm area pass ~~passing~~ through the framework in ~~the~~ a direction ~~intersecting the~~ perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the framework.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the dendritic framework forms macropores by mutual linking of branched portions of the framework, or

macropore-sized voids are formed between the frameworks adjacent to one another.

4. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the mesopores are hexagonally symmetrically arranged.

5. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein the mesopores have a pore size distribution in which 80% or more of the mesopores fall within a range having a width of 10 nm and a maximal value.

6. (Original) The structure according to claim 1, wherein a biological material is supported in the mesopores.

7. (Currently Amended) A porous material formed a plurality of particles, with each particle having a mesoporous silica structure with a plurality of mesopores and comprising; ~~the particle comprised of the structure according to claim 1.~~

a dendritic framework having mesopores,

wherein 90% or more of the mesopores observable in a 500 nm × 500 nm area pass through the framework in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the framework.

8. (Original) A sensor for detecting a specimen, which sensor is comprised of the porous material according to claim 7 and an electrode, and detects an electric output signal based on a reaction between the specimen and a biological material supported in the mesopores.

9. (Original) A method for detecting a specimen, comprising the steps of:

preparing a sensor in which a biological material is supported in the mesopores of the structure according to claim 1;

applying a fluid that contains a specimen to the sensor; and

detecting an output signal based on a reaction between the biological material and the specimen.

10. (Cancelled)